tion of atomic minerals, through the Geological survey of India;

(b) if so, the district in which such surveys have been conducted during the last one year;

(c) the names of the atomic minerals in which Government have achieved success through such surveys; and

(d) the quantity of minerals deposits explored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) Survey for exploration of atomic minerals in the country is carried out by the Atomic Mineral Division, a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy, and not by the Geological Survey of India. The Districts where geological survey was conducted last year by the Atomic Minerals Division are:

(a) Andhra Pradesh: Nalgonda, Cuddapah, Srikakulam, East Godavari, Anantpur, Guntur, Kurnool and Mahboobnagar.

(b) Bihar: Gumla, Ranchi, East and West Singhbhum.

(c) Orissa: Sambalpur, Sundergarh, Bargarh and Jharsuguda.

(c) The Minerals for which exploration was undertaken with success include Pitchblende/Uraninite, Ilmenite, Rutile, Monazite, Columbite, Tantalite and Xenotime.

(d) The surveys are in different stages of completion. The quantity of mineral deposits can be estimated on completion of the exercise.

Concessions on Electronic Items

1712. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that many concessions/reliefs extended to the consumers on electronic goods by the Union budgetary provisions during the preceding three years did not actually reach them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/contemplated to check the recurrence of this phenomenon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) to (c) The Budget addresses the larger issue of promotion of domestic industry. The Electronic Industry has been seen as a fast growing sector offering great promise for exports, employment and development in the small scale sector. the Central Tax regime has gradually been rationalised to help the domestic industry to grow. While no information is available about duties/reliefs being passed on to the consumers, it is the market that determines the prices. The trend in this industry all the world over has been product upgradation with falling prices. During the Eighth Plan, the domestic electronic industry has grown at a Cummulative Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 20% which is an indicator of success of the government strategy to promote domestic industry, as also, a growth in consumer demand for local manufacture. The Government would continue to follow this strategy during the IX Plan.

इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी उद्योग का विकास

1713. **श्री सूर्यभान पाटील वहाडणे:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी उद्योग के उत्थान हेतु विभिन्न राज्यों को क्या-क्या सुविधाएं प्रदान की जा रही हैं तथा उनका राज्यवार ब्यौरा क्या है और महाराष्ट्र के विभिन्न जिलों में ऐसे उद्योगों को सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए क्या-क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं और ऐसे उद्योगों के नाम क्या हैं?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा वित्त (बैंकिंग, राजस्व और बीमा) मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर जनार्दनन):

भारत सरकार, इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी विभाग इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी के सभी संगत क्षेत्रों में देश भर में इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी उद्योग

स्थापित करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करता है। संबंधित राज्य सरकारें अथवा राज्य इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स विकास निगम जैसी एजेंसियां राज्य में विशिष्ट औद्योगिक इकाइयां स्थापित करने के लिए कुछ सुविधाएं एवं संवर्धनात्मक प्रोत्साहन उपलब्ध कराते है। इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी विभाग आवश्यक दिशा निर्देश एवं अनुमोदन/लाइसेंस आदि प्रदान करता है। इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्सी में सॉफ्टवेयर एवं हार्डवेयर के क्षेत्रों के विकास को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए सॉफ्टवेयर प्रोद्योगिकी पार्क योजना तथा हार्डवेयर प्रौद्योगिकी पार्क योजना को विशेष रूप से तैयार किया गया है। इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी विभाग जनशक्ति विकास, मूल संरचनात्मक सुविधाओं की स्थापना, गुणवत्ता प्रमाणन, परीक्षण एवं मानकीकरण, इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी में अनुसंधान एवं विकास आदि जैसे क्षेत्रों में भी परियोजनाओं को सहायता उपलब्ध कराता है।

इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी विभाग द्वारा महाराष्ट्र राज्य में स्थापित सुविधाओं में इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी क्षेत्रीय परीक्षण प्रयोगशाला (ईआरटीएल), मुम्बई, वीएलएसआई डिजाइन केन्द्र, पूणे, उन्नत अभिकलन विकास केन्द्र (सी-डैक) पुणे, इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी परीक्षण एवं विकास केन्द्र (ईटीडीसी), पुणे, इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी सामग्री प्रौद्योगिकी केन्द्र (सी-मेट), पुणे, प्रायोगिक सूक्ष्मतरंग इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी इंजीनियरी तथा अनुसंधान संस्था (समीर) मुम्बई, राष्ट्रीय सॉफ्टवेयर प्रौद्योगिकी केन्द्र (एनसीएसटी) मुम्बई, और पुणे तथा नवी मुम्बई स्थित सॉफ्टवेयर प्रौद्योगिकी पार्क शामिल है।

Dialogue between India and Pakistan

1714. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. President's Special envoy Mr. Bill Richardson, during his recent visit to India and Pakistan in the after-math of the launching of Ghauri missile, had stressed the need for a comprehensive dialogue between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction towards resumption of bilateral talks with Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) A delegation led by the US Permanent Representative to the UN, Mr. Bill Richardson, visited India from 14-15 April, 1998. During its talks in India, the delegation conveyed that the US had welcomed and supported the ongoing talks between India and Pakistan. The delegation hoped that the talks would continue, and reiterated that the US did not wish to interfere in the talks.

(b) Bilateral dialogue with Pakistan at the level of Foreign Secretary was resumed in 1997 at India's initiative. Three rounds of talks were held during 1997. Following the second round of talks, which was held in Islamabad from 19—23 June, 1997, a Joint Statement was issued that identified eight subjects for discussions. The two sides also agreed to set up a mechanism to address these subjects. Discussions on the setting up of this mechanism continued in the third round of talks held in New Delhi from 15-18 September, 1997. Though this round was adjourned, consultations through diplomatic channels continued on the subject of the setting up of the mechanism. The then Prime Minister met the Prime Minister of Pakistan in Dhaka in January 1998. On this occasion, Foreign Secretary handed over to his Pakistan counterpart a set of proposals regarding the modalities for discussions. Pakistan's response is awaited.

India's commitment to direct and bilateral dialogue with Pakistan is firm and abiding. It has been reiterated on numerous occasions. Recently, while addressing this very august House on 29.5.1998, Prime Minister had said that India desired to pursue the path of comprehensive and constructive dialogue with Pakistan, and that India awaited Pakistans' response to its proposals on modalities for dialogue.

Nuclear Tests

1715. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the reported demand made by Shri H.D. Deva Gowde, former Prime Minister, for the constitution of a Joint Parliamentary Committee to probe into